

## ABSTRACT

In a hydrostatic transmission or integrated hydrostatic transaxle having a housing forming an oil sump and a hydraulic pump and hydraulic motor mounted in the sump and connected through hydraulic porting, a filter housing or other structure defining an internal volume is mounted adjacent to the check valves for the hydraulic porting. Oil passing into this internal volume is filtered to prevent the introduction of contaminants into the hydraulic porting. A chimney is formed as part of the filter housing and extends upwards therefrom, and is open to the internal volume. The chimney also includes an opening to permit air to escape to the oil sump, to reduce the risk of air being introduced into the hydraulic porting through the check valves.

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